



Keep your critters warm
SPCA staff warn pet owners about danger of winter weather

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Thankful for help
Community invited to pasta night in support of food bank

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Meteors fell 3-2 to Avalanche. See page 25.

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online
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Frigid plunge gives sense of accomplishment



ALISON LANGLEY OMI Agency Niagara

Fort Erie Times editor Sarah Ferguson, right, participated in the Polar Bear Dip and Chili Challenge at the Bertie Boat Club on Saturday. Read the story on page 13.

Ward 2 residents will vote for a new leader

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Residents in Ward 2 will return to the polling stations to elect a new representative.

In order to fill the vacant seat left after Ward 2 Coun. Rick Shular died in December, council agreed to host a byelection. The decision to hold a byelection was made during

Monday night's council-in-committee meeting.

According to Ward 4 Coun. Marina Butler, a byelection "is the proper route to go" because "the constituents of Ward 2 deserve the

opportunity (to choose their own representative)."

Council will pass a bylaw next week at its meeting Monday night. After council ratifies the decision to move forward with a byelection,

town staff will begin accepting nominations for candidates.

See Page 4

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SPCA staff reminds residents to bring pets indoors in cold weather

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

With some tender love and care, Snowball the cat is expected to make a full recovery.

"I think that's what we should call him. He looks like a snowball," Fort Erie SPCA officer Mark Dickson said as he cradled the sleeping cat in his arms.

Dickson rescued Snowball from the cold on Jan. 7 in Crescent Park, a neighbourhood in Fort Erie.

"We got a call for an animal in distress and I found him in a window well trying to keep warm," Dickson said.

"I put him in the cabin of the truck and got the heat going. Once I got back to the SPCA we started to massage him to get the blood going and check him for any injuries and made sure to hydrate him."

When he makes a full recovery, Snowball, who is about eight years old, will be ready to be adopted.

SPCA officials also rescued a duck that was frozen in the ice on Jan. 6 night and the animal is resting comfortably at the animal shelter.

"He's eaten quite a bit so I think he is doing better," Dickson said.

Last year, SPCA officials had rescued about 25 to 30 ducks that were frozen in ice on Lake Erie. According to Dickson, about "a few hundred" ducks died because



SPCA officer Mark Dickson cradled Snowball, an eight-year-old cat that was rescued from the cold in Crescent Park in Fort Erie on Jan. 7.

SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

they couldn't be rescued from the ice in time.

SPCA manager Wendy Trombley said the SPCA hasn't had many calls this month for animals in distress due to the cold weather.

"I really believe that people are becoming more educated on how an animal can suffer if it is left in the elements," Trombley said. "Times are changing for the better."

Last week Monday, Niagara Region Public Health issued an extreme cold weather alert as temperatures were forecasted to drop below -15C.

Environment Canada also

issued a weather statement for Niagara as temperatures are expected to be well below the average for early January.

With more cold weather on the way for Niagara, Trombley reminds pet owners to ensure their animals are warm and well cared for.

"An animal should not be left out longer than 20 minutes without a choice of

shelter," Trombley said.

"When you see a dog standing, shivering and lifting his seat it means it's too cold for them. They shake just like a human."

Smaller dogs with a small body mass and short hair do require a coat. But a larger dog "won't mind the cold too much for a short walk."

Trombley said all outdoor dogs need a shelter that is elevated and faces away from "prevailing wind."

"The shelter also needs to be insulated and equipped with clean, dry straw and a flap to stop the wind and

allow the shelter to be accessible for the animal to go in and out."

Dickson said it's important for a driver to tap the hood of his or her car before starting the ignition.

"Sometimes an animal will go underneath the car and rest inside the wheel well where it's warmer."

If anyone finds an animal in distress due to extreme weather conditions, he or she is asked to call the Fort Erie SPCA at 905-871-2461.

sarah.ferguson@summedia.ca

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Food bank manager 'grateful' for support community has given

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

After three decades, Barb Volzke is still amazed at the support the community provides to Community Outreach Program Erie.

"Even after 32 years, I'm still surprised. Someone will walk in and donate some items and we are so thankful," said Volzke, who manages the food bank.

According to Volzke, COPE couldn't operate without donations from local businesses, service organizations, schools and individuals. COPE serves about 7,000 residents living in Fort Erie, Crystal Beach, Ridgeway and Stevesville.

Some days when Volzke arrives at work, the cupboards at COPE may be bare. When the food bank is in need of donations, Volzke said the people of Fort Erie "pull together" to make sure there assistance for people who need it.

"There are many times when people drop off items and we don't know who they are," Volzke said.

"A lot of people don't want attention (for their donations). They just do it because they want to."

According to Volzke, many people support COPE over the course of the year with fundraisers in the work place or at school.

"The people in Fort Erie have been so good to us. They call us and let us know they've held a fundraiser for COPE and bring donations which is wonderful."

During the holidays, COPE receives an abundance of donations but the food bank does "need an extra boost in February and March" to get through the winter months.

To assist in filling up the cupboards at the Dufferin Street food bank, COPE is hosting its annual Pasta Night Fundraiser on Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Italo Canadian Club.

"It's the biggest fundraiser of the year for COPE," Volzke



Who: Community Outreach Program Erie

What: The COPE Pasta Night Fundraiser

Tickets are \$9 at the door, \$6 in advance and \$7 for take-out for adults, and \$4.50 for children.

To purchase tickets for the COPE fundraiser call Barb Volzke or Mandy Crosby at 905-871-2526.

When: Thursday, Feb. 26 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Italo Canadian Club, 1101 DiPietro St., Fort Erie

Why: To help fill the food bank at COPE

said.

She is hoping this year's dinner, which will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., will be a success.

Tickets are \$9 at the door, \$6 in advance and \$7 for take-out for adults, and \$4.50 for children. To purchase tickets for the fundraiser call COPE at 905-871-2526.

"Last year, we made about \$1,600 from the ticket sales and bake sale," Volzke said. "It was also the first time all 250 tickets were sold."

Volzke encourages individ-

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Community Outreach Program Erie manager Barb Volzke invites the public to attend the food bank's annual Pasta Night Fundraiser at the Italo Canadian Club on Feb. 26.

uals to purchase a pair of tickets and enjoy a nice night out.

"If people can't come, that's okay. A lot of people like to buy tickets and give them away. Some people even buy tickets for us to give to our clients."

Volzke "appreciates" everyone who comes to the annual fundraiser year after year because it allows COPE to continue assisting people in need.

"No one is ever turned away," Volzke said. "When people need help, we do our best to help them."

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Flu season nearing its peak in Niagara

Bob Tymczyszyn
QMI Agency Niagara

If you've got a headache, chills and cough, you might be seeing the first symptoms of the flu.

The seasonal ailment is making its way through the province and Niagara is not immune.

The flu will likely hit its peak in the next week or two, said Jennifer Sharron, manager for the infectious diseases program with Niagara Public Health.

"When we look at our surveillance reports, we can see that in the Golden Horseshoe is right in the midst of widespread influenza," she said. "In Niagara, we're almost there."

"The numbers that are being reported show that it is just at the cusp of being at its peak. We are very close to it. I wouldn't be surprised if the next report in the next week or two says that we are at our peak."

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, influenza, or the flu, infects millions of Canadians every year. The highly contagious infectious respiratory disease begins in the nose and throat, and can spread rapidly from person to person.

Influenza cases result in approximately 12,200 hospitalizations and on average, 3,500 deaths in Canada each year.

This year, the H3N2 influenza has been the most common strain circulating in North America. People 65 and older are usually the most affected by the H3 flu type.

While health professionals admit there is a mismatch with the flu vaccine this year, they still suggest people get the vaccine.

"The vaccine has proven to provide some cross protection against the current strain," said Sharron. "And it can prevent the symptoms from being severe. It does cover some other strains, and who's to say next month that we may see influenza B coming and we know there's a match for that."

"Hospitals are seeing the patient demand pressures in their emergency departments, with patients showing influenza-like symptoms," said Sharron.



JULIE JOCSAK
QMI Agency Niagara

How to avoid the flu

- Clean hands frequently.
- Cough and sneeze into your arm, not your hand. If you use a tissue, dispose of it as soon as possible and wash your hands.
- If you get sick, stay home.
- Keep your hands away from your face.
- Keep common surface areas like door knobs, light switches, telephones and keyboards clean and disinfected.
- Eat healthy foods and stay physically active to keep your immune system strong.
- Niagara Public Health

Signs to look for are the sudden onset of illness and fever, extreme weariness and achiness, headache and chills—these are all good

Public health nurse Danya Huneault holds the flu vaccine in this file shot. While health professionals admit there is a mismatch between the flu vaccine and the virus this year, they still suggest people get the vaccine.

signs that this is not a regular cold," said Sharron.

"If you're sick with flu symptoms, you should just stay home and avoid contact with other people, except to get medical care."

For certain people who are at high risk with flu-related complications, it's better to contact their family doctor and get directions from them, she added.

She said residents should feel free to call the Niagara Public Health Dept. with questions or queries about vaccinations. It can be reached at 905-688-8248, ext. 7425.

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opinion page

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Do You Remember?

We have received no calls or e-mails about last week's photo of the skaters on Black Creek as of yet.

It is never to late to call in if you recognize anyone in the photo.

We did get a call from Allen Stoddard about the curling photo published over Christmas.

It was taken at Garrison Road Public School's 1982 Winter

Carnival.

Mr. Stoddard's son, also named Allen, is the little boy with the striped toque and white pompom shown at the centre back of the photo.

Mr. Stoddard Sr's mother had kept the photo and original clipping so Allen was able to read to us about this curling competition between students and teachers: "A vocal cheering section favoured the students, but

the competition was sportsman-like."

Does anyone recognize the two women in this week's photo?

There are no names or dates on the back, but we think the photo may have been taken at a blood donor clinic.

Please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.on.ca.

Plato: Osage trees can still be found in Fort Erie

I wrote in the Fort Erie Times about hedges in Britain and our own disappearing fences and hedges late last year.

Memory flashback. I recently received a Christmas card from boyhood friend, Ken Krebs, retired in San Diego, California.

His card and lengthy letter brought back remembrances of earlier days.

As a young boy our family would drive to Amigari (Fort Erie West) to visit our Plato cousins.

I remember when we reached Bertie Road and as we drove north down



Earl Plato
When Nature Calls

Heavily thorned no animal could penetrate it. Time passed.

In the 1940s I often visited Ken Krebs.

The Krebs had the large white house at the foot of Garrison Road.

The Canadian Legion building is there now.

All along the Krebs's extensive property on Garrison Road were a long row of Osage orange trees. Old timers might remember the fruit.

It was a green orange size often lying on the Garrison Road. Cars would run over the fallen fruit and crush them. A real mess as I recall.

Here is my recollection of the Osage orange. I pitched hard ball as a juvenile for a local team and later back up pitcher for the Fort Erie juvenile team. I could throw a hard ball fairly fast. Mistake by Ken and me. He picked up an osage and threw it at me.

It came no where's near me. I retaliated. My missile with good velocity caught Ken a glancing blow on the side of his head. I took off into the Osage trees.

Mistake!
Many thorns grabbed at me and punctured my flesh. Both of us were los-

ers.

The Osage orange that hit Ken had broken and this milky substance was on the side of his head.

I had several punctures on my arms and left side. That was one tough hedge!

Ken was all right. Thank goodness that it had been a glancing blow and we parted friends.

Ken Krebs and I are still friends. We have corresponded over the years.

Writer's note: We still have Osage orange trees around. Go along our Niagara Boulevard north from Fort Erie.



Osage orange.

W.L.Mackenzie's Crossing on the Thompson road side are a row of these slender trees. Someone each year picks up the fruit. Look for the sharp thorns on the trunks. Just look.

Earl Plato is a resident of Fort Erie and a local historian.

Opinion page

Borrow a movie from the library and relax

What could be better on a snowy day than to relax with a movie or TV series on Blu-ray or DVD, especially when you can borrow them for free from the Fort Erie Public Library?

Staff members offer several recommendations for shows worth watching.

Some of the best films are those made from books, as Maria Brigantino and Samantha McLean will tell you about their choice, *The Book Thief*, based on the novel by Markus Zusak and starring Sophie Nélisse and Geoffrey Rush. Subjected to the horrors of Second World War Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others.

The powerful film 12 years a Slave was from 100 years in the making, from true story to cinema.

Solomon Northup was a free black man living in upstate New York before the Civil War when he was abducted and sold into slavery.

After regaining his freedom, Northup published an account of his ordeal and ultimate homecom-



Amy Roebuck
Fort Erie Public Library

ing. Steve McQueen directed talented stars including Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Kenneth Williams, Lupita Nyong'o and Michael Fassbender in bringing Northup's life story to a modern, larger public.

Another movie which is both biography and drama is *Philomena*, based on the book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee* by journalist Martin Sixsmith.

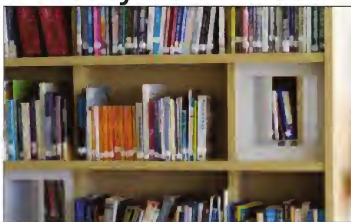
The choice of Dawn Gangarossa and Jean Christie, this book and film tell the dramatic true story of an Irish Catholic woman, played by Judi Dench, who set out to search for her son, decades after he was abducted without her consent from the convent

home for unwed mothers where he was born. Her cause was taken up by Sixsmith, played as a world-weary political journalist by Steve Coogan. Both book and movie are available in the library collection.

Christie also recommends *Cas and Dylan*. In this road trip film starring Richard Dreyfuss and Tattana Maslany, a dying doctor, who plans to check out on his own terms, takes a reluctant detour when he accidentally finds himself on the run with an 'anything-but-normal' 22-year-old girl.

Debbie Ashworth enjoyed the movie *About Time*. At the age of 21, Tim discovers he can travel in time and change what happens and has happened in his own life. His decision to get a girlfriend turns out not to be as easy as one would think. Richard Curtis wrote and directed this fantasy romance, which stars Domhnall Gleeson, Rachel McAdams and Bill Nighy.

Do you like to binge watch television series? The easiest, least expen-



sive way to do that is by grabbing a season or two of your favourite show from the library.

Joel Nash recommends *Sherlock*, season three. Ripper Street is Sean Fleming's pick; he's on season two.

Laura Rudynski-Martino is enjoying *Walking Dead*. Call the *Midwife* is another favourite and *Downton Abbey* is my choice.

You can also see movies at the library, with regular

showings on Thursday evenings at the Centennial branch, anchored at Crystal Ridge as a Tuesday matinee.

Boydhood, winner of the Golden Globe for best picture, and best director Richard Linklater, shows the joys and pitfalls of growing up, filmed as a series of vignettes with the same cast over the course of twelve years, making this a remarkable cinematic accomplishment.

Boydhood is scheduled for screening on Saturday, Jan. 24, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Crystal Ridge branch. Please check; sometimes award winners are held over in theatres, and our show dates are pushed back. The library website www.fepl.ca and our

Amy Roebuck is the Community Services Coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

From the gardener's journal: Greenery thriving in green house

Ruth Vold Markle
Special to The Times

Now if the Farmer's almanac is correct we should be experiencing a milder winter and slightly above normal temperatures.

I noticed nothing was mentioned about high winds.

The snow and winds of the last week have been a strong reminder that the first month of the year can be fierce at times. I hope everyone is able to find shelter and warmth.

We are back in the greenhouse again to find that everything fared well during the school break.

No signs of Mickey or Minnie mouse, or family, so perhaps the chalky gravel has discouraged them or

they have moved to Florida or points south. As I walk in and find myself among hibiscus, begonia and other flowering and thriving greenery, lots of ferns on the grow, I might feel some days like I am in the tropics myself—until I open the door to leave.

Although the winter has enough light for most growth, the right amount of warmth can be a problem. I think draft is the greatest discouragement to growth, and humidity is a great encouragement.

If you can give a mild spray to the more tropicals and encourage them to think warmth, that helps during this dry season. I've had good success with my blend of sunlight detergent and water in a sprayer to keep little flies and spiders at a

minimum.

Already I see some new growth on the raspberry canes we planted inside in the autumn so I have hopes for the spring plantings. The herbs have sprung back to life and passing by that area is such a delight to the senses.

It is easy in a greenhouse setting to propagate herbs, however I was thinking this week that to grow them from seed in a home space would be more common. So the experiment is on for me as I try this at home.

I begin with a simple flat and line it with paper towels until it is 1 inch thick. Then add a layer of aquarium gravel or perlite for drainage. Next is the soil blend of 1 part potting soil, two parts sand and 1 part peat. I spread this evenly over the surface

and firm it nicely. I think it helps to plant in groupings of three or you can use a grid pattern, just as long as different seeds are identified.

Sometimes the seed is very fine so you may want to mix it with a little sand before sowing it. Most seeds need darkness to germinate so cover the seeds with a thin layer of fine soil. Mist very gently and cover with plastic or damp newspaper. Place in an area that keeps temperatures between 65 degrees to 70 degrees, day and night. It is best to seed six to eight weeks before planting outside but if you want to keep the herbs inside for use, this could be a nice early winter indoor garden. I am also going to try lettuce from seed in this early garden so I'll let you know how it grows.

Have you been looking at

the seed catalogues? I am making plans and I am most impressed with the variety of heritage seeds offered. And don't forget Seedy Sunday in early February in 'St. Catharines—more details to follow soon. That's a great place to exchange and gather more varieties of seeds.

Just a few thoughts on mint and the family of mint this week: as mentioned mint is helpful in sore throats and in clearing the winter coughs.

One of the family of mints, hyssop, has a strong flavour and the flowers and leaves are used in green salads, chicken soup, lamb stew and poultry stuffing. In the past hyssop has been used in poultices to heal wounds.

My good friends from the West Indies tell me that their mamas would give them reg-

ular doses of hyssop to cleanse them if there was flu in the area.

In a dried form and used in a tea, hyssop is warming and helps with sore throats and coughs. I understand that the oils of hyssop are used in some perfumes. Amazing what benefit comes from a little of this lovely herb.

Stay warm with herbal teas of hyssop, oregano or thyme, try some early indoor garden herbs for life and greens and keep looking for those winter sunrises and sunsets!

Until next time, stay warm and safe and keep growing.

Ruth Vold Markle is a member of the Fort Erie Horticulture Club.

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ALISON LANGLEY QMI Agency Niagara

As gas prices drop across Niagara, the long-standing tradition of filling up south of the border is starting to lose its appeal. According to ontariogasprices.com, on Tuesday the lowest price per litre in Fort Erie was 86.9 on Pettit Rd.

Relief for gas pains

Alison Langley
QMI Agency Niagara

With gas prices sitting below \$1 a litre across the region, the long-standing tradition of filling up south of the border is starting to lose its appeal.

"It's not worth the effort because you're not going to save anything," said Dan McTeague, a senior petroleum analyst for the price-tracking website Gasbuddy.com.

On Saturday, the average price in Niagara Falls, Ont. was 88.8 cents per litre. In Niagara Falls, N.Y., the price was an average of (US) \$2.72 per gallon, the equivalent of (CAN) 87.6 cents per litre.

According to ontariogasprices.com, on Tuesday the lowest price per litre in Fort Erie was 86.9 on Pettit Rd.

Add the bridge toll and the exchange rate if paying by credit card and the end result is "there is no deal" to buy gas over the border, McTeague said.

Jessica Friesen, CEO of Niagara-based Gales Fuels, agrees.

"By the time you factor in your time going over the border and taking into consideration where the Canadian dollar is right now and where the gas prices are right now, it makes sense to me to stay here."

Friesen said she's noticed an increase

in customers as prices continue to fall. "It hasn't been extravagant but definitely I'm seeing a positive change in what's happening out there," she said.

In recent months, crude oil prices have fallen drastically, contributing to a surplus supply with record production levels.

"The prices are reflecting, for the first time in over 10 years, the fundamentals of supply and demand," said McTeague.

"The world is producing 2.5 million barrels of oil that it can't possibly use every day. There's no end of sellers, just not enough takers."

McTeague, a former Liberal MP, expects prices to stay consistent in the foreseeable future.

"I don't see things going down any time soon."

Despite the savings, some motorists continue to cross the border to fill up. "I still go over occasionally because I think I still get a better deal because I pick up a few groceries as well," said John Cuvieille, who stopped at a McLeod Rd. gas station, Saturday.

Bottom line, drivers are pleased with what they're seeing at the pumps.

"It's nice to have a little extra money in your pocket after you fill up," said Sherri Vanguard as she filled up her mini-van at the same gas station.

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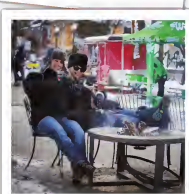


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Fort Erie man continues to encourage others to rise above bullying

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Justin Preston knows the pain of being bullied. That's what it's important he continues to speak out and let young know how words can hurt.

The 21-year-old from Fort Erie, known by many people for the Rise Against Bullying Campaign he launched online, is continuing his efforts to encourage the conversation about bullying.

In November, Preston toured with Saidat, a motivational speaker, on her Get Up and Stand Up Tour. Preston explained Saidat has spoken to thousands of students about bullying, self-esteem, compassion and friendship. The goal of Saidat's tour was to spread the message that "one person can make a difference and together, we can change the world."

Sadat's message is similar to the one Preston shares daily through his Rise Against Bullying Facebook page.

"I went on her tour and I was only supposed to be (touring with Saidat) for four days but I stayed longer," Preston said. "I danced with kids and helped spread a positive message to them."

Preston's anti-bullying message has made a large impact on the lives of youth across Canada and all over

the world.

This month, Preston will fly to Alberta for an interview with CBC News and he will spend a week with the Canadian Living 10th annual Me to We award winner for Social Action, Mackenzie Murphy.

Me to We is an initiative through the Free the Children organization that teaches children to think not of themselves, but other others in the community and around the world.

The Me to We Awards shine the spotlight on ordinary Canadians making a difference in the world.

"We are both being interviewed to tell the story of how people can make a difference," Preston said.

When Preston was a teenager, he was bullied after he revealed to a friend that he was gay.

"When I came out at 13, it spread like wild fire. I told a friend, and that friend told someone else and it just spread."

Preston turned online for support and met other people that had been bullied for being different.

"I liked seeing people out there in the world and they could express themselves (online) and it made me feel like I should use my own voice (to speak out against bullying)."

For his efforts to raise awareness against bullying, Preston has been recog-



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie's Justin Preston is continuing his anti-bullying campaign and recently toured with Saidat, a motivational speaker that sends a positive message to children about acceptance.

nized. He won the 2014 Inspire LGBTQ Youth of the Year Award, which honours people in the LGBTQ community in the Toronto Area. He also won a volunteer award from Pride Niagara.

Preston intends on study-

ing to become a fashion designer and hopes to use clothing to inspire creativity and spread his message of acceptance.

Some days Preston still battles with the pain caused from years of being bullied.

But he remains focused on his anti-bullying campaign.

"I'm facing my fears and my anxiety. I'm a voice for those people who are silent," Preston said.

"It's the followers on Facebook, the kids who

come up to me, and it's the parents that stop me in the street that stop to talk to me. I don't realize the impact I've made half the time, but they remind me of why I do what I do."

sarah.ferguson@sourmedia.ca



Babies in Review 2014

Blessed Events



Polar Bear dip is first 'community' event of the year

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Instead of standing behind the camera this year, I had a bright idea.

I thought it would be fun to participate in this year's Polar Bear Dip and Chili Challenge at the Bertie Boat Club in Crystal Beach. As I looked at the freezing water I second guessed my decision to plunge my body into Lake Erie.

I asked myself what I was doing there. A sane person wouldn't consider what I was about to do as fun.

But I've always been told I am odd person.

As I stood at the edge of the boat launch with about 50 or 60 people behind me, I thought, "I'm nuts to be doing this in January" but it was too late to change my mind.

If I didn't go for a swim I would surely disappoint my crowd of supporters which included family, friends and coworkers.

Dressed in an old pair of sneakers, shorts and a T-shirt, I joined the crowd of other Polar Bear dippers and braced myself for the challenge before me.

"This will be fun," I told myself. "This is something you can brag about later."

Have you ever wanted to know what it would feel like if your body was completely submerged in Lake Erie in January? Most people wouldn't want to find out.

It's bone chilling. In fact, the temperature in the air was a balmy -12C.

I could feel the cold air biting at my knees and ankles. I knew it was only going to get worse once the water penetrated my shoes and cooled my toes.

And of course I brought my husband Paul along. There was no way I was doing this dip on my own. Luckily, he agreed to take the plunge with me. Otherwise, I might have dragged him in screaming.

Mother Nature wasn't encouraging when she decided to unleash a blast of winter weather Saturday morning. As I drove down Point Abino Road to the Bertie Boat Club, I wondered if the event would be cancelled.

I was hoping and praying it would be.

The wind was blowing so much that I could barely see out of the windshield of my car. To my disappointment, there was a crowd of people eagerly waiting to watch the Polar Bear Dip.

When the countdown to dip time began, I was nervous. When it was time to go into the water, there wasn't a chance to change my mind. Hand-in-hand, Paul and I raced for the water. I admit I may have been the one who was dragged into the water, and the one who screamed.

After the initial shock, and not ten seconds later, I ran out and back into the water two more times howling at

the top of my lungs before I grabbed my towel and sought warm shelter.

Mission complete.

The truth is, once I had a few bowls of chili and I regained the feeling in my toes I felt a sense of accomplishment. I have braved the cold waters of Lake Erie and I have lived to tell the tale.

By the time your body touches the water, you and everyone around you has forgotten whatever fears came with you at the beginning.

The best part of the Polar Bear Dip and Chili Challenge are all of the faces that congratulate you as you leave the water—and the faces that tell you that you're looney.

The event is about bringing the community together, especially during a time when most people typically wouldn't think about going outdoors. The Polar Bear Dip and Chili Challenge is the first community gathering of the New Year and I'd say one of the most thrilling events.

When people tell me I'm insane, I can proudly tell them I support my community because a portion of the proceeds from the dip and the chili challenge will benefit the Crystal Beach Business Improvement Association's community projects.

I will definitely participate



ALISAN LANGLEY QMI Agency Niagara

Fort Erie Times editor Sarah Ferguson stood in the frigid Lake Erie waters Saturday during the annual Polar Bear Dip and Chili Challenge.

in the Polar Bear Dip again. It just might take me 365

days to warm up first.

I just hope that there's not

as much snow next year. sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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The Club regrets that it was necessary to cancel our
Ham Dinner on Fri. Jan. 9th.
due to inclement weather and other
factors beyond our control.

We sincerely appreciate the Community's support of
our Fundraising Dinners, and as scheduled,
the Club will be back in action on Friday Feb. 13th.
at the Seniors Centre with a Roast Pork Dinner.



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Golden Globe awards

12 MON

Pharmacist Day

13 TUES

Rubber Ducky Day

14 WED

Organize Your Home Day

15 THURS

Hat Day

16 FRI

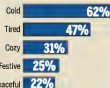
Paddington is out in theatres today

17 SAT

January is Hot Tea month

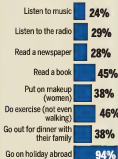
SURVEY SAYS...

Top 5 feelings associated with winter:



Source: Ipsos Reid

Turkish people who say they never...



Source: Ipsos Research and Consultancy Company

Per cent of working internet users who say the following are "very important" to do their job:



Source: Pew Research Center

TODAY'S PIE



of Turkish people say they never surf the Internet

Source: Ipsos Research and Consultancy Company



QUIZ YOURSELF

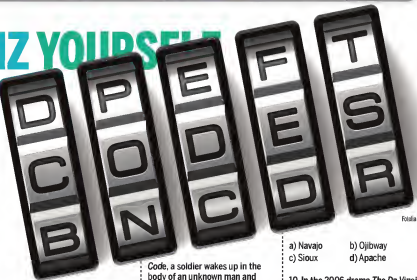
There are numerous codes, be they alphabetic, numeric or whatever. So quiz yourself with an ode to the code by trying these code-oriented trivia questions.

1. This year will mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The D-Day invasion of Normandy (code name: Operation Overlord) on June 6, 1944, involved five beaches. Where were the Canadian forces deployed?
- a) Omaha b) Utah
c) June d) Sword

2. During the Second World War, British cryptologists decrypted numerous messages enciphered on the Enigma machine. What was the code name for the intelligence gleaned to aid the Allied war effort?
- a) "Puzzle" b) "Ultra"
c) "Riddle" d) "Primo"

3. What was the first common distress signal adopted by radio operators and transmitted in Morse code (predating SOS)?
- a) CQD b) STP
c) IGA d) PCP

4. YYZ is the airport identification code for Toronto, Ontario. What Canadian rock band recorded the instrumental song "YYZ"?
- a) Tragically Hip b) Nickelback
c) Triumph d) Rush



Italia

5. Match the airport code to the country they are located in:
- a) DOH b) POO
c) MAD d) NOB
e) PEZ f) THC

A. Liberia B. Russia
C. Costa Rica D. Spain
E. Brazil F. Qatar

6. Both U.S. Presidents and their First Ladies have had secret service code names throughout the years. LBJ and Lady Bird (Johnson) were Volunteer and Victoria respectively. What were the code names for JFK and Jacqueline (Kennedy)?
- a) Camelot & Casey
b) Benny & Joan
c) Lancer & Lace
d) Prodder & Princess

7. In the 2011 action thriller Source

- Code, a soldier wakes up in the body of an unknown man and discovers he's part of a mission to find the bomber of a Chicago commuter train. Who plays the lead role?
- a) Ben Affleck
b) Kiefer Sutherland
c) Matt Damon
d) Jake Gyllenhaal

8. During the Second World War, what was the code name for the Canadian forces invasion at Dieppe, France?
- a) Operation Jamboree
b) Operation Jubilee
c) Operation Torte
d) Operation Quiche

9. What Indian Nation provided vital communications as Marine Code Talkers during the Second World War? (Depicted in John Woo's 2002 film Windtalkers, starring Nicolas Cage and Adam Beach.)

- a) Navajo b) Ojibway
c) Sioux d) Apache

10. In the 2006 drama The Da Vinci Code, symbologist Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) teams up with a cryptologist to unveil a secretive ancient society. Who directed it?
- a) Michael Mann
b) Ron Howard
c) Oliver Stone
d) Tom Hanks

Quiz by Alan G. Luke / Special to QMI Agency

- 10 (p) Ron Howard
9 (p) Michael Mann
8 (p) Operation Jubilee
7 (p) Jake Gyllenhaal
6 (p) Lancer & Lace
5 (p) Benny & Joan
4 (p) Camelot & Casey
3 (p) CQD
2 (p) Tragically Hip
1 (p) Nicki Minaj

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#JeSuisCharlie

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Top Twitter Trends
(Canada; Thursday, Jan. 8)

- 1 #ASKJACK
2 #JeSuisCharlie
3 Charlie Hebdo
4 #NBAballot
5 #throwbackthursday
6 Kyle Lowry

Source: twitter.com

WATCH THIS

You Tube

Most popular videos
(Canada; Thursday, Jan. 8)

- 1 "Slap Her": Children's Reactions 13,354,045 views
2 Jimmy Fallon Blew A Chance To Date Nicole Kidman 8,437,815 views
3 Sia - Elastic Heart Feat. Shia LaBeouf & Maddie Ziegler (Official Video) 5,416,630 views
4 Real Life Peter Griffin Goes To NYC 2014 4,136,471 views

Pomegranate serves up dishes to special guests

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Mayor Wayne Redekop knows about Fort Erie's best-kept culinary secret.

"This isn't the first time I've eaten here at the Pomegranate Restaurant," Redekop said last Wednesday night as he feasted on a garden salad drizzled in a light vinaigrette.

Redekop was among several Fort Erie councillors and District School Board of Niagara trustees that dined at the Pomegranate Restaurant at Fort Erie Secondary School.

The Pomegranate is a student-run restaurant that runs every Wednesday evening in the school's cafeteria under the guidance of Alshin Keyvani. The students oversee every detail from set up, to planning and executing the menu. The restaurant gives high school students an opportunity to gain real life skills in the hospitality industry.

"The Pomegranate has become part of a renowned program culinary arts here in Fort Erie," Redekop said.

"We try to come here every year to support the students," Redekop's wife, Cathy added.

Principal Fred Louws said local politicians and school board trustees were invited to dine last Wednesday so the students could highlight the skills they have learned in the school's Specialist High Skills Major program.

"There's a lot of great things our students are doing with their education and this is an opportunity for council to see this in action, and we'll be working closely with Fort Erie's new council as we move forward together with the new school and its construction," Louws said.

Both FESS and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School are set to close in June 2017 and a new educational facility, Greater Fort Erie Secondary School will open its doors to students in September 2017 across from Town Hall on Garrison Road.

"There's a lot of great things the kids are doing with their education and this is an opportunity for council to see it and

we'll be working closely with Fort Erie's new council with the new school construction," Louws said.

Keyvani said he is thankful for the support the community has shown to the school's culinary program and he is looking forward to continue it at Fort Erie's new high school.

"Hopefully, we will have the hospitality program continue in the new school building and we are so thankful for the support of our school board trustees and council."

For more information about the Pomegranate Restaurant visit online at www.thepomegranaterestaurant.com.

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Students at Fort Erie Secondary School invited special guests including Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop.



sarah.ferguson@sunme-dia.ca

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FOR KIDS AND TEENS

Legs and Loam

January 15, February 5, 3:30 pm, Centennial
January 22, February 5, 3:30 pm, Steelesville
January 28, February 11, 3:30 pm, Crystal Ridge
Whether it's Rainbow Loom or Lego that inspires you, we've got what you need to make it. If you have your own loom, please bring it along. Registration not required. \$2. All ages. Younger ages may need parent assistance with the Rainbow Loom.

NBA 2K15 Tournament

January 24, 10:15 am, Centennial, Free.
A videogame tournament for Xbox 360 and Playstation 3. Ages 10 and up. Time to shoot those hoops! All players must report at 10:15 for bracketing.

Family Literacy Day Spelling Bee

January 28, 6:30 pm, Centennial, Free.
The library and the Adult Literacy Council partner to bring an evening of fun and challenge—and spelling—to students in Grades 3 - 8. Word lists will be available; registration can be made at any branch or by phone, no charge to enter or to watch!

FOR TEENS AND ADULTS

Tech Help

January 20, February 3, 17, 2:00 pm, Centennial, Free.
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Michael Schell will be available to answer your questions, including troubleshooting or training.

To Cry a Dry Year

February 11, 7:00 pm, Centennial, Free.
Bill MacPhee, a recovery expert with long years of experience, talks on his journey of hope and recovery with schizophrenia. Books available for sale and signing.

Speculative Fiction Café

February 17, 7:00 pm, Crystal Ridge.
If you enjoy science fiction, fantasy and dark literature, be sure to come to our newest book discussion group with other readers of these exciting genres.

The Right Way to Shave

February 18, 7:00 pm, Centennial, Free.
Mike Dagle of the Bridgeway Gentleman's Shop believes men would enjoy shaving more if they knew the right way to do it. Advice and instruction; bring your own razor, a bowl and 2 handtowels. Women are welcome to watch!

W. E. B. DuBois and the Niagara Movement

February 25, 7:00 pm, Centennial, Free.
February 25, 7:00 pm, Centennial, Free.
Tours visits to talk about W. E. B. DuBois and the Niagara Movement, (forerunner of the NAACP).



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CHUCK STONE Special to The Times

The District School Board of Niagara named Fort Erie Secondary School principal Fred Louws as the first principal for Fort Erie's new high school which is expected to open in September 2017. Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School Principal John Shaw congratulated Louws (right) Tuesday.

School board names principal for new high school

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Fred Louws is "excited" to be appointed as principal of Fort Erie's new high school.

"To be the principal of the new school in the town that I grew up in is a dream come true," Louws said.

The District School Board of Niagara made the announcement Tuesday that Louws, who is currently the principal of Fort Erie Secondary School, will continue on as principal of Greater Fort Erie Secondary School which will open in September 2017. The high school is the first DSN secondary school to be built in Niagara in four decades.

Louws grew up in Fort Erie and graduated from Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School, where he also served as vice-principal. Louws also taught at FESS.

Superintendent of Education Helen McGregor said there is still a lot of work to do before the high school opens.

"There are many important mile-

stones to reach before Greater Fort Erie officially opens its doors in 2017, and it is important to have leadership in place to guide the development of the school and program," McGregor said in a press release issued by the DSN Tuesday afternoon.

"Fred will do an excellent job working with the community and the staffs at FESS, RCBHS and the elementary feeder schools to build school spirit and ensure a positive transition for all students," added McGregor.

Greater Fort Erie Secondary School will combine both FESS and RCBHS students and will be built across from Town Hall on Garrison Road.

Louws is "honoured" to be named the first principal of the future high school. He said he is looking forward to continuing old partnerships and building new ones in the community.

He is also working with RCBHS principal John Shaw to help unite students from both schools.

"I'm looking forward to celebrating the rich history from both FESS and RCBHS," Louws said.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca



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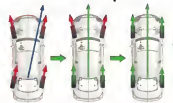


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Weekly discussion group offers fellowship

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Kathy and Dave know the value of good conversation over a cup of coffee.

That's why the couple from Ridgeway kicked off the first Lifetree Café at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts in Ridgeway on Jan. 6.

The Lifetree Café provides people a chance to meet in a coffeehouse setting to hear stories and engage in conversation.

"There's a new topic every week," says Dave Stephenson. "The idea is to get people talking and allow for an opportunity for people to get to know each other in a comfortable, safe environment."

The first meeting last week Tuesday saw about 30 participants discuss

"How to De-clutter Your Life" and the event was "a success" according to Stephenson, who runs the Lifetree Café with his wife Kathy.

Topics explore everything from religion, to grief, depression, racism violence, to mental health and more.

Upcoming discussion topics include "Breaking the Cycle of Sexual Abuse" on Jan. 18 and "Why Hate Men Hate Church" on Jan. 25.

Stephenson started a new church in Ridgeway called Journey. The congregation meets every Sunday at the Sanctuary.

Kathy said the Lifetree Café is part of an outreach initiative of the church she and Dave started.

"The Lifetree Café is an integral part of outreach. Every week there are different topics and it's designed to provide fellowship for people."

Lifetree Cafés are hosted at locations all across North America and the same topic is discussed each week by millions of partici-



DAVE STEPHENSON Special to The Times

About 30 residents met at the first Lifetree Café hosted at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts last week. The weekly events are free and everyone is invited to participate in an hour-long discussion on a different topic each week.

Who: Dave and Kathy Stephenson

What: Host the Lifetree Café

When: Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m.

Where: The Sanctuary Centre for the Arts, 209 Ridge Road, Ridgeway.

The Lifetree Café is an hour-long discussion group that is free for the entire community. For more information call Kathy and Dave Stephenson at 289-214-4445.

Café is to unite people in fellowship.

"A lot of people in the community do not know each. But by the end of the evening, you get to know each other."

For more information about the Lifetree Café in Ridgeway, visit the Stephenson's Facebook page Lifetree Café Ridgeway.

pants.

"We first learned about the Lifetree Café in 2009. In North America, there is over 400 Lifetree Cafés."

Everyone is welcome to attend the Lifetree Café no matter what his or her beliefs are. All that is required is openness and honesty, Dave said.

The goal of the Lifetree

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca



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Poor driving conditions in south Niagara

A driver suffered minor injuries following a roll over in the Fort Erie-bound lanes of the Queen Elizabeth Way at Sodom Rd.

Friday morning, According to the Niagara detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, the driver lost control of the vehicle on the slick roadway and drove in to the median. Police are reminding motorists to drive according to the road

conditions. The Niagara Regional Police responded to five motor vehicle collisions in the Fort Erie and Fort Colborne areas from Thursday evening into Friday morning. Four of those crashes involved cars sliding into ditches. There were no major injuries.

Single vehicle crash on QEW



HARRY ROSETTANI Special to The Times

The Ontario Provincial Police responded to a call for a single-vehicle crash Monday morning on the Queen Elizabeth Way at Thompson Rd. OPP Staff Sgt. Jan Idzenga, head of the Niagara detachment, said a driver merged into the Fort Erie-bound lane from the ramp "too fast and spun in the snow" before hitting the guard rail at 8:30 a.m. The driver was treated for minor injuries.

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Rollover at Thompson Road



HARRY ROSETTANI Special to The Times

Niagara Emergency Medical Services, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Fort Erie Fire Department responded to a call for a single-vehicle rollover in the Fort Erie-bound lanes of the Queen Elizabeth Way at Thompson Rd. Friday afternoon at 3:20 p.m. The driver was treated for minor injuries.



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Walloped in snow



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Truck drivers attempting to cross in the U.S. at the Peace Bridge to drive south on the New York Thruway were turned back due to dangerous driving conditions along the 190 between Rochester and the Pennsylvania state line on Friday. The trucks parked temporarily at a truck centre on Gilmore Rd. to wait until the 190 re-opened to traffic at 1 p.m.

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Niagara Falls, St. Catharines were under-billed for trash removal

Rob Houle
OMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Falls and St. Catharines both underpaid for garbage collection in 2013 and 2014, but because it was Niagara Region's fault, they won't have to pay up.

A staff report to the Region's budget review committee of the whole last week revealed St. Catharines was under-billed \$240,287 over the past two years and Niagara Falls was under-billed \$240,112 over the same period for enhanced waste-management services (extra garbage collection) provided by the Region.

"Congratulations to my colleagues in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines for your underpayment," Fort Erie regional Coun. Sandy Annunziata said sarcastically.

"Is that now going to be

paid for waste-management services over the past two years.

Those municipalities will be given credits for the overpayments that range from a low of \$8,452 for Wainfleet to a high of \$68,524 for West Lincoln.

"I'm not sure that I fully understand the adjustment that's being made, and why the municipalities that were overcharged are being given a credit and the communities that were undercharged are being given a pass?" Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop said.

Chamberlain reiterated Niagara Falls and St. Catharines were not being asked to pay for the shortage because it was an error during calculation at the Region.

"My experience has been that utilities, even when they make an error, they

generally recoup their costs from their customers, and in this particular case that's not what's being done," Redekop said.

"In fact, wouldn't that mean that all the other municipalities are in fact covering that cost?"

Chamberlain said staff were recommending not recouping the \$280,339 in underbilling because "to add that additional charge, it would compound two years of increases on one year. It would compound the effect on residents in those municipalities, so therefore we are proposing not to recover that charge from those two municipalities, but to fund the credit to the municipalities that overpaid throughout our surplus in 2014."

The surplus in 2014, Chamberlain said, came primarily from an ex-

pected increase in revenues from a recycling contract with the Region of Waterloo.

"This adjustment is an effort at fairness. I think that's the purpose of it, to be fair," Redekop said.

"Perhaps in my jaundiced view, it seems to be that it's fairer for some municipalities than others."

Reached Monday, Welland regional Coun. Paul Grenier said he was satisfied.

"I believe that the waste-management file at the Region is well managed ... and I'm willing to accept the commissioner and director's explanation that this is a readjustment rather than forgiveness."

While the other municipalities will see small decreases in billing for waste management in

2015, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines will see "one-time adjustment" hikes of \$185,605 and \$21,745 respectively.

The report notes that upon council approval, the waste management budget will rise to \$35,578,802, which is \$232,992 more than 2014. The 0.66% increase is below council's budget guidance of a maximum 3% hike.

In a presentation to the budget review committee earlier in the evening, Chamberlain noted the water and wastewater budget is also set to come in under council's 2% guidance.

"That budget is set to increase 0.64% to \$108.12 million, up from \$107.22 million in 2014."

rob.houle@summedia.ca

Crime Stoppers program targeting teen audiences across Niagara

Greg Furlminger
OMI Agency Niagara

Niagara's tipster program will need support in 2015 as it embarks on an ambitious 30th anniversary year.

Crime Stoppers receives no government funding, only donations and money raised through its annual October fundraising gala, which typically generates about \$17,000.

That sum is not applied only toward rewards. It goes to much of the organization's programming.

Niagara's Crime Stoppers

will be much more visible across the region—and that means its need for the community's support might be at its greatest level ever.

Just over a year ago, it struck what Ernie Sibbett calls "the triad," which expanded upon a longtime partnership with Avondale Stores and also involves the Niagara IceDogs hockey team.

The local convenience store chain has been funding filming of public service announcements "commercials" that played on the video board at IceDogs hockey games.

With its emerging video production unit, Crime Stoppers of Niagara has also created short segments with the team's hockey players that target youth and are shown during game whistle stops.

Sibbett says after the triad started, tips doubled. The triad has rapidly expanded to become a group of 12 "sustaining partners," including M.T. Bellies restaurant in Welland and Churchill Natural Meats in Pelham, although numerous others also support the charity.

New commercials will be shown during

Crime Stoppers' volunteer activation night Jan. 29 at Rivestone Event Centre in Welland.

That's just the start of Crime Stoppers' greater presence on Niagara's landscape.

"You'll be seeing Crime Stoppers bumper stickers, we'll have billboards," Sibbett says, later adding a Crime Stoppers Niagara mascot will be rolled out in spring to accompany IceDogs mascot Bones whenever he goes.

Organizers hope heightening awareness of the program and how it functions will see the yearly average 1,500 tips usually registered

with the Niagara Crime Stoppers program explode.

Maria Izzo, a civilian NRP employee who volunteered to become a board member, is working on an ambitious program that will be introduced to schools in 2015.

Targeting youths in grades 7 to 10—for many, their first time exposed to Crime Stoppers — the program will include a film on how the tip-reporting process unfolds from start to end.

Niagara College's justice studies program will be approached to assist in the program delivery, Izzo says.

The video is to be ready

in January, but funding is necessary for related promotional materials that typically engage young minds.

"We've dropped the ball on the schools. We've got to be in there big time," Sibbett says.

It is with youth that the text-reporting tool introduced a few years back could experience growth.

For now, most people, including the weary ones who seek public phones to report crime, continue to call in information, says board chair Claude Tremblay.

"The biggest method is still by phone, because it's been around so long," he says as he rambles off what has become a familiar number to Niagarans -- 1-800-222-TIPS.

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Meteors need to 'capitalize on chances'

Cathy McCabe
Special to The Times

"We need to capitalize on our chances."

The Fort Erie Meteors fell 3-2 to the Ancaster Avalanche on Saturday night at the Leisureplex.

Dave Keracher, assistant coach of the Fort Erie Junior B team, said "The first period we got behind 2-0 right off the hawk. We played a good first two periods. We played very well. A couple of bad breaks and it's in our net."

Chris Klack opened the scoring for Ancaster at 13:56 in the first period. Owen Burnell increased their lead at 15:44.

The Meteors came back in the second with a goal by Richard DeMarco at 1:14 and a power play goal by Wade Kenny at 10:09.

Max Balinson scored a power play goal for Ancaster at 12:11 in the third period.

"I thought we played very well in the first. In the second period we dominated. In the second period we did take it to them, obviously the score showed that. 2-2 after 2-0," said Keracher. "The boys tried hard and then a power play goal scored on us."

He said, "We need to capitalize on our chances. We need to score when we have opportunities."

The Meteors' only capitalized on one of their five power plays.

Meteors' goalie Mackenzie Savard saved 31 of 34 shots on goal and the Avalanches' Blake Richard saved 26 of 28 shots.

The Meteors also played on Friday night and defeated the Pelham Pirates 5-2.

When asked if playing back-to-back nights took a toll on the team Keracher said, "It is a challenge, but it is January also, and we should be okay with that."

He added, "I don't think fatigue set in. I don't think that was a factor. I



CATHY MCCABE Special to The Times

Players from the Fort Erie Meteors and the Ancaster Avalanche rush to reach the puck near the Meteors' goal at the beginning of the first period.

think we skated well and competed well. A power play goal killed us. It sunk us."

The Meteors are playing Thorold next on Jan. 14 at 7:07p.m. at the Thorold Arena.

Hon Rob Nicholson MP



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Bouquet for church congregation

A bouquet for the congregation of St. John's Anglican Church, Ridgemount as they begin celebrating 175 years of service with a Community Hymn Sing at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 18th.

Brick for an awful parking job

A huge brick for the person who owns a vehicle that parked so close to me in the No Frills parking lot on a Saturday morning, I had to climb into my car from the passenger side, as I could not get in my driver side door. There must have been an important event going on in the grocery store that morning, that you did not see that you parked over the line, and only left two inches between us.

Bouquet for holiday lights
A big bouquet for everyone who put up Christmas lights this year. Some of the displays were incredible and gave so much pleasure to all of us who saw them. Thanks for all the effort you put into your work and for the enjoyment you gave to so many. Fort Erie really is a beautiful place to live during the holidays. People really made the bells ring.

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holidays bright. Happy New Year!

Bouquet for New Year's host
A bouquet for the Royal Canadian Legion Fort Erie for hosting a fun and festive New Year's Eve event! The staff, food, entertainment, dancing and patrons were terrific! I look forward to attending next year!

Brick for lack of lighting

A brick for the people responsible for a very dark and depressing Niagara Parkway and Mather's Arch during this holiday season. What happened to taking pride in our community. This town has lost so much in the way of jobs, local businesses, services and health care.

To drive through that area and no longer even see a single strand of lights saddens me.

Bouquet for artistic display

A bouquet for the artist who decorated the windows at a local shop in Crescent Park. These convey the spirit of the season and are so well done.

Bouquet for a couple

A bouquet going for the couple who helped me. Thank you for coming to my aid the other night when I locked myself out. I know that three angels got their wings because I heard the

Eight-ball champions



Special to the Times

Neil Nicholls and Mike Baumann recently won the Zone 8-Ball Championship for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 230. The two-time winners remain undefeated and will compete in the district championship in Mississauga in Port Credit on Feb. 7. The duo hope to advance to the provincial championship.

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PARENT NETWORKING

A monthly support group for caregivers of children, youth or adults with autism, a developmental disability, or mental health issues the last Wednesday of every month, 6-8pm. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485 Garrison Road.

DIABETES HOT TOPICS

Topics to help people self-manage their diabetes. Thurs. Feb. 5, 3-4pm Diabetes and Heart Health; Mar. 5, 3-4pm, Keeping your Feet Healthy. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485 Garrison Road.

KEEPING DIABETES AWAY

Nutrition and lifestyle management strategies to help delay or prevent diabetes Thurs. Jan. 22, Tues. Feb. 24, Thurs. Mar. 24, 1:30-3:30pm. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485 Garrison Road.

SMOKE CESSATION

A two-week workshop designed to help you quit smoking, including a five week supply of nicotine replacement therapy to eligible participants. New enrollments are offered the second Tuesday of every month, 6-7:30pm. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485 Garrison Road.

WALKING GROUP

A weekly walking group every Monday and

Thursday, 9:00am at the Fort Erie Leisureplex.

CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT

Learn and use new coping tools or strategies for managing your chronic pain Tues. Jan. 27 to Mar. 17, 1:30-3:00pm. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485 Garrison Road.

INCOME TAX CLINICS

Free Income Tax Clinics during the months of March and April. For more information, contact Mary Anne Feagan at 905-871-7621 ext. 2246.

HEALTHY EATING

Grocery store tours: Discover how to make healthy food choices, read food labels and shop on a budget. Call us to be placed on a waiting list. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485 Garrison Road. Call 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca for more information.

LET'S GET COOKING

Learn basic skills to prepare quick and tasty, low cost meals. No cooking experience necessary. Tues. Jan. 27, Thurs. Feb. 26, Tues. Mar. 24, 10-noon. Fort Erie Salvation Army or Crystal Ridge

Community Church. Call 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca for more information.

HEALTHY YOU

A monthly support group led by a Dietitian for individuals who have taken the Healthy You program. Participants will build skills related to nutrition, healthy lifestyle strategies and ways to problem solve in challenging situations. Mon. Jan. 26, Feb. 23, & March 30, 4-5pm. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485 Garrison Road. Call 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca for more information.

HEALTHY YOU

Discover foods to eat for a healthy heart. This program will be helpful for people with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart problems or anyone who wants to learn how to eat to keep your heart healthy. Thurs. Jan. 8, 1:30-3:00pm at the YMCA. Call 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca for more information.

EAT SMART

Discover foods to eat for a healthy heart. This program will be helpful for people with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart

problems or anyone who wants to learn how to eat to keep your heart healthy. Thurs. Jan. 8, 1:30-3:00pm at the YMCA. Call 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca for more information.

HEART HEALTH AND LABEL READING

Learn how to read and understand food labels to help you make wise choices about the foods you eat. Thurs. Jan. 15, 1:30-3:00pm at the YMCA. Call 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email

info@bridgeschc.ca for more information.

HEALTHY EATING

Our Registered Social Worker and Registered Dietitian team-up Wed. Mar. 11, 1:30-3:30pm to look at the importance of sleep in a person's overall health and well-being. From weight management, mental and physical performance to the ability to manage stress, learn about the role of sleep and how to get a good night's rest. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485

Garrison Road. Call 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca for more information.

HEALTHY STRATEGIES

Our Registered Social Worker and Registered Nurse team-up to talk about strategies for dealing with depression Thurs. Jan. 29 1:30-3:30pm. Bridges Community Health Centre Fort Erie. 1485 Garrison Road. Call 905-871-7621 ext. 2234 or email info@bridgeschc.ca for more information.

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Riverside Community Church

www.riversidecommunitychc.com

Sunday Services:
9:00am & 10:45am

2669 Niagara Parkway, Fort Erie
905-871-8880

BERTIE CHURCH
5244 Highway #3, Sherkston

Pastor Andrew Doherty
(905-382-6530)

Sundays at 11:00 am

Call to reserve your worship listings and church functions each week

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IT'S IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

Administrative Clerk

IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: HOUSING ADMINISTRATOR
HOURS OF WORK: Monday - Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm
Statement of Qualifications:

1. Certify in Office Administration and/or minimum of 5 years related work experience.
2. ADVANCED technical computer skills including excellent word processing, spreadsheet, and database skills. Strong Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Word Perfect.
3. Organize work by reading, recording and routing correspondence, collecting information, ability to plan and organize workload and function effectively with very minimum supervision. Outstanding organizational skills and ability to maintain records and systems.
4. Complete requests by greeting customers, in person or on the telephone, answering or referring inquiries, to be able to communicate effectively in both written & oral form.
5. Proficient in all aspects of records management, business machines, and office procedure. Attention to detail and high level of accuracy is a must.
6. Board Government activities, documentation and administrative support process, preparation of all board reports (Two Board of Directors) and minutes and forwarding to regulated government agencies.
7. Bondable as this position requires accurate accounting and receipting in cash, cheques and PDS machine.
8. Proven ability to maintain professional standards/boundaries with clientele, office staff, and service providers including the ability to handle confidential matters appropriately, taking direction from Administrator.
9. Knowledge of non profit & social housing would be an asset.
10. Dependable (40 hr work week), trustworthy and able to work as a team player.

To apply, submit cover letter, resume and 2 current references (at least one work related), and submit in an envelope marked "Administrative Clerk" and confidential to:

ADMINISTRATOR
Ganawagh & Ohsto Urban Homes Inc.
10 Dufferin Street, Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2T5
You may also drop off at the office in person.

We thank all applicants for their interest however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. DEADLINE will be February 6, 2015 at 4PM, nothing after this date will be accepted. Thank you

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General Help Wanted

General Help Wanted

The Fort Erie Times
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(Lakeside, Lakeview) (Daytona)

Crescent Park
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(Old Mill, Lower Coach, Settlers)
(East, East Main, Utvich)

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Public Notices

NOTICE
St. Michael's Cemetery
(Baxter Cemetery)
St. Michael's Church has submitted by-laws to the registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact the secretary at St. Michael's Church 905-871-0882 for information or for a copy of the by-laws. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or picked up at 310 Central Ave., Fort Erie, ON. These by-laws are subject to the approval of the registrar, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act 2002. Telephone: Cemeteries Regulation Unit (416) 326-0395.

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Rob Nicholson, M.P.
Annual General Meeting
January 24th, 2015 at 10:00AM
Betty's Restaurant, 8921 Sodom Rd.,
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Refreshments will be available.

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Birthdays

HAROLD HAMPEL IS TURNING 85!
Come help us celebrate at an Open House on Sunday January 18 from 2-4pm at St. Luke's Lutheran Church on the corner of Prospect Point Rd & Disher St in Ridgeway. Best wishes only please.



Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

CROWN, Ethel (nee Roberts) - Passed away Thursday January 8th, at Welland County General Hospital in her 95th year. Predeceased by her husband Fred Crown (1997). Dear mother of Nancy (Bill) Freeman, David (Nancy) Crown, Barbara (Matthew) Bolden and Philip (Norma) Crown and loving grandmother of Michael (Krista), Mark, Justin (Jaclyn), Jacob, Steven, Shannon (Steven), Nicole and Frances. Proud great grandmother of Olivia Freeman. Ethel is survived by her sister Marion Sider and sister-in-law Dorothy Roberts. She was also predeceased by siblings Florence Scillington, Charles Alton Roberts and Frank Roberts. Mom enjoyed time spent with family and will be remembered for the gentle loving soul. A heartfelt thanks to the caring staff at Woodlands of Sunset. Visitation was held from 1 to 2 pm on Sunday January 11th at **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgeway, Ontario. Funeral followed at 2pm. Private interment will take place at a later date. If desired, in lieu of flowers, as expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to The Woodlands of Sunset, Welland or All Saints Anglican Church, Ridgeway.

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

OH NO, say it isn't so?
Not the big FIVE-O
Happy half century birthday
DEAN ZANCHIN, DAD & POPA!
January 17th

I think we'll take a moment, to celebrate your age. The ending of an era and the turning of a page. Now it's time to toast, on where you go from here. Lord have mercy, on his next 50 years! We love you so much and hope you know how special you are! May this year be one of your best! Love, Hugs, Melinda, Lisa, Sarah, Blake, Madalyn & Charlee

MARS, PIETER Lawrencetown, NS It is with broken hearts and a surreal feeling of disbelief that we announce the sudden passing of Piet Mars on Saturday, January 10th, 2015, in Halifax, N.S. after a courageous struggle with pneumonia. Born in the Netherlands on Aug. 3, 1953 Piet immigrated, with his family, to Fort Erie, Ontario in 1985. Cherished and spoiled husband to Mary Rose Mars; beloved son of Wilhelm Mars (Bill) and the late Katja (Kassentbrood) Mars; dear brother to Jan Mars (Lorraine), and Rob Mars (Arlene); dearly missed step-father to Jason Gibson; truly amazing and adored Papa to Riley Gibson; remembered with great affection by his nieces and nephews; and best friend to Todd Thompson. He was predeceased by his mother Katja (Kassentbrood) Mars and his sister Anneliese (Mars) Perquin. Piet was a family man, an adventurer and a great friend who loved to be around people. He traveled broadly after graduation, eventually settling in Nova Scotia, where he enjoyed a long career with Lydon Lynch Architects of Halifax. He was an active volunteer in his community and put his heart into protecting green spaces and natural waterways for the enjoyment of future generations. An artist at heart, with a special talent for living in the moment, he was never one to waste a minute or miss an opportunity. He loved to incorporate new experiences into his life and did so on his own terms. He enjoyed painting, pottery, sculpting with clay, woodworking, and gardening. Tinkering with things made him happy. His pretty much had his garage "hardware store" packed with thousands of tools, fasteners and a remarkable collection of odds and ends. Yard sales made him gleeful and he rarely missed the 50 mile year sale along the 207 highway. In later years he was fond of taking road trips to far off destinations on his BMW motorcycle. As of late, he was obsessed with mastering the fine art of sailing his sailboat and right to the end had plans for much more. Piet's many friends from school days, volunteer associations, colleagues, neighbours and friends know that he enveloped parties with his laughter and grand vision. Cremation has taken place. A celebration to honour Piet's life will be held in the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 75 Lower Water St., Halifax, N.S. on Saturday, February 14th, 2015 at 5:00 pm. Please wear bright colours in tribute to Piet.

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Funeral Services

Funeral Services

Funeral Services

Funeral Services

Funeral Services

KOMMER, Lisa - Passed away January 5, 2015. Loving wife of Fred, loving mother of Rick (Brandi) and Jennifer. Survived by parents, William and Emma Brown and Beverly Bowles, in-laws, Inga and Waldecker Kommer, sisters, Dana and Laurie, and brothers, Nick and Lence. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. Lisa was loved by all and will be sadly missed. Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Scher, nurse Pat Eberly and staff on palliative care ward at Douglas Memorial Hospital. At her request cremation has taken place, and a Celebration of her life has been held. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-894-0120.



STAYZER, Dolores Fern - Dolores passed away at the Greater Niagara General Hospital on Thursday January 8th 2015 at the age of 82. Proud mother of Richard L. Stayzer (Gail). Loving grandmother of Terri Tang (Michael), Jodi Eberly (Robert Jackson) and Lisa Ropetz (Bill). Cherished "GG" to Nicole and Allison Eberly, Sawyer, Carter, Everett and Brayden Tang, Michael and Hailey Ropetz. Also survived by her sister in law Marie Nichols and brother in law Donald Stayzer. Predeceased by her sisters, Jacqueline Craddock and Geraldine Noyes and brother Clyde Nichols. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Banner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with private family arrangements.

REIMER, Ann - On Sunday, January 11, 2015, Ann passed away in the loving embrace of her 3 children, at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, at the age of 84. Beloved wife of the late Philip (2012), loving mother of Glenn of Cold Lake, AB, Eunice (John) Hawdon of Richards Landing, ON, and Fred of Mississauga, ON, cherished grandmother of Amanda and Kaitlin. Sister to Walter, Bill, Patricia, Ben and Maurice, and late sisters, Lorraine, Mary, Evelyn, and Sophie. Ann was authentic, faithful and dedicated to the Lord and family. Meals she prepared had to be homemade, from the bread to the dessert. She gave her all selflessly to others. Happiest in the final years by sharing a memorized bible verse or creating a poem about those around her, making a silly joke and singing a song inspired by love. She reflected God's strength to all those around her regarding the loss of her lifetime love of 50 years. She lived on her own terms, not afraid to speak her mind and not afraid to put a stranger into a long loving hug and hold their hand. She worked hard, celebrated the simple things and laughed at the silly things and was never caught up in this world of distractions. Visitation will be held from 12:10 to 1 on Thursday, January 15th at **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, 722 Ridge Rd., North, Ridgeway, Ontario. Funeral will follow the chapel at 1 p.m. Interment: Ridgeway Memorial Cemetery. In memory of Ann those who wish may donate to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or to the Samaritan's Purse.



WILLICK, Jane Ethel - Born June 29 1949, Kennora, New York, and passed away on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at St. Catharines General Hospital. Survived by her loving husband Michael, children Joe (Kim) Willick, Kristi Willick (Joe Burd), granddaughters, Emily Barnett, Lili Barnett, Leah Barnett, Hannah Willick, and sibling Sue (Bob) Berg, and predeceased by her parents Clayton and Esther Skinner and brother Fred Skinner. Also survived by sister-in-law Jeannie. Jane was a retired employee of Canada Post and will fondly be remembered by all those who knew her. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgeway entrusted with arrangements. Family will receive friends on Thursday evening from 6-9 p.m. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Snyder on Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Cremation to follow. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Children's Hospital or to the Humane Society.



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In Memoriams



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In Memoriams

In Memoriams

Lance LeRoy Jones

December 31, 1974 - January 12, 2005
In loving memory of our son, brother,
father and uncle.

Our hearts still ache in sadness,
Our silent tears still flow,
For what it meant to lose you, Lance,
No one will ever know.

Niece: Mom & Dad, Mike & Selene,
Jon & Den, Skylar, Marshall, Nathaniel.



In Memoriam on your Anniversary

Jean & Babe (Walter) Douglas
Mom & Dad - On what would have been
your 88th Anniversary, we salute you.
We miss you terribly but know in our
hearts that you are together again and
in a better place. On each and every
day you are with us in our daily
activities, however on Jan 15th we shall
pause a bit longer and remember all the
good... no great times we had
together!!!
Love you both,
Your Boys,
Jim, Jake, Jeff, Barry and our families

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 84 months

2015 FIESTA SE SEDAN

 STOCK #
 156017

Market Value

/// \$19,848

Additional Brock Savings

/// \$849

\$18,999*
 + HST AND LIC.
 2Yr/40,000kms
 Limited Maintenance Plan Included

\$123 + HST AND LIC.
Bi-Weekly

 -2.0L engine
 -6-spd. auto
 power moonroof
 air/p. group/
 heated seats &
 much more...

99%
 financing
 up to
 84 months

2014 FOCUS SE SEDAN

 STOCK #
 148290

Market Value

/// \$23,798

Delivery Allowance

/// \$1,000

Additional Brock Savings

/// \$1,191

WARM-UP BONUS

\$500**

\$21,165*
 + HST AND LIC.
 2Yr/40,000kms
 Limited Maintenance Plan Included

\$149 + HST AND LIC.
Bi-Weekly

 -2.5L engine
 -6-spd. auto
 air/p. group/
 cruise/tilt
 remote start &
 much more...

99%
 financing
 up to
 84 months

2015 FUSION SE FWD

 STOCK #
 158304

Market Value

/// \$27,383

Delivery Allowance

/// \$500

Additional Brock Savings

/// \$954

WARM-UP BONUS

\$500**

\$25,487*
 + HST AND LIC.
 2Yr/40,000kms
 Limited Maintenance Plan Included

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 up to
 84 months

2015 ESCAPE S FWD

 STOCK #
 151024

Market Value

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Additional Brock Savings

/// \$526

WARM-UP BONUS

\$500**

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\$248 + HST AND LIC.
Bi-Weekly
LEATHER & ROOF
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 72 months

2014 EDGE FWD-SEL

 STOCK #
 142205

Market Value

/// \$41,033

Delivery Allowance

/// \$2,500

Additional Brock Savings

/// \$1,855

WARM-UP BONUS

\$500**

\$36,156*
 + HST AND LIC.
 2Yr/40,000kms
 Limited Maintenance Plan Included

\$258 + HST AND LIC.
Bi-Weekly
4X4
 -3.5L ecoboost engine
 -2014 XLT Pkg.
 auto/air/p. group/tilt/
 cruise/hatch step &
 much more...

0%
 financing
 up to
 72 months

2014 F-150 XLT SUPERCREW

 STOCK #
 145771

Market Value

/// \$46,633

Delivery Allowance

/// \$6,000

Additional Brock Savings

/// \$2,366

WARM-UP BONUS

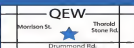
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APRIL 2014 - MARCH 2019



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LEVY AND DMV
EXCLUDED- DTH
CHARGES MAY A



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